

1 CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

3 1. An infinity mirror display apparatus for enhanced display of objects which allows  
4 easy and rapid exchange of one display object for another without having to dismantle said  
5 apparatus, disturb said apparatus from a mounted position, disturb other objects already  
6 positioned within said apparatus for display, or permanently alter objects to secure them for  
7 display, said infinity mirror display apparatus comprising:

8 a housing having a stationary base member and a cover which together define an enclosed  
9 interior space, said cover being easily movable between a closed position against said stationary  
10 base member and a variety of opened positions wherein rapid access to said interior space is  
11 provided;

12 at least two opposed at least partially reflective surfaces positioned adjacent to said interior  
13 space with said reflective surfaces being at a spaced-apart distance from one another;

14 a plurality of display objects adapted for positioning within said interior space, selected  
15 ones of said display objects being positioned between said mirrors;

16 at least one light source communicating with said interior space and adapted for adequate  
17 illumination of each said selected display object for creation of multiple closely spaced-apart  
18 reflected images thereof to make an infinity mirror effect; and

19 electrical connection means adapted for connecting each said light source to a source of  
20 power so that when electrical power is provided to each said light source, viewing of each said  
21 display object is enhanced by said infinity mirror effect to observers looking at said display  
22 object through each said partially reflective surface.

23 2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a control means adapted for interrupting

1   electrical power connection to each said light source.

2           3.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cover is selected from a group consisting of  
3   totally detachable covers, partially detachable covers, substantially planar covers, covers having  
4   more than one planar surface, covers having a top surface and four sides, top opening covers, and  
5   covers with handles adapted for ease in cover manipulation between said open position and said  
6   closed position.

7           4.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said stationary base member has a plurality of side  
8   surfaces, and said housings are selected from a group consisting of wall-mounted housings  
9   adapted for enhanced viewing of each said display object positioned therein with an infinity  
10   mirror effect viewed through said cover and said side surfaces, and table-mounted housings  
11   wherein a full 360° viewing of the infinity mirror effect is accomplished through said cover.

12          5.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said stationary base member is selected from a group  
13   consisting of box-like stationary base members and platform-like stationary base members.

14          6.   The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising fastening means adapted for securing said  
15   cover against said stationary member when said cover is in said closed position.

16          7.   The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said fastening means is selected from a group  
17   consisting of magnetic closure means, keyed locking means, and snap-fit types of closure means.

18          8.   The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one display object support device  
19   positioned within said interior space, said support device adapted for quick exchange of each  
20   said display object to and from said interior space, said support device also being adapted for  
21   support of at least one of said display objects without permanent alteration thereto.

22          9.   The apparatus of claim 8 wherein each said display object support device is selected  
23   from a group consisting of transparent lower supports, translucent lower supports, opaque lower

1 supports having at least one aperture therethrough, supports attachable to glass through suction  
2 cup means, means for suspending display objects within said interior space, and support means  
3 comprising interlocking protrusions and peg holes.

4 10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each said light source is selected from a group  
5 consisting of incandescent bulbs, multiple miniature incandescent light bulbs encased within  
6 elongated flexible plastic tubing, neon lights, light emitting diode lighting, electroluminescent  
7 lights, lights positioned within said housing to shine upward on a display object, lights positioned  
8 within said housing to shine downward on a display object, and lights positioned within said  
9 housing to shine laterally toward a display object.

10 11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said stationary base member has opposed grooves  
11 therein adjacent to said interior space and said cover has opposed perimeter edges, and wherein  
12 said opposed perimeter edges of said cover are slidably positioned within said grooves for  
13 movement between said closed position and said opened positions.

14 12. A method of making an infinity mirror display apparatus providing easy access to the  
15 interior thereof for rapid exchange of display objects positioned therein without having to  
16 dislodge said apparatus from its mounted position, without having to dismantle said apparatus,  
17 without disturbing other display objects within said apparatus, and without requiring permanent  
18 alteration or modification of the display objects to securely position them within said apparatus,  
19 said method comprising the steps of:

20 providing a housing having an interior spaced defined by a stationary base member and an  
21 easily separable cover, at least one totally reflective surface, a plurality of partially reflective  
22 surfaces, a plurality of display objects adapted for positioning independently or in combination  
23 with one another within said interior space, at least one light source, electrical connection means,

1 and a power source;

2 attaching a first one of said partially reflective surfaces to said cover in a position where  
3 said partially reflective surface is adjacent to said interior space and also so that an illuminated  
4 object positioned behind said partially reflective surface can be viewed by an observer looking  
5 through said partially reflective surface;

6 positioning a remaining one of said reflective surfaces adjacent to said interior space so  
7 that a reflected image from an illuminated object positioned behind said partially reflective  
8 surface can be viewed by an observer looking through said partially reflective surface;

9 positioning selected ones of said display objects within said interior space and between  
10 the ones of said reflective positioned adjacent said interior space;

11 positioning each said light source for communication with said interior space in a  
12 position remote from each said partially reflective surface used and also in a position to provide  
13 sufficient illumination for at least one of said display objects so that multiple reflected images of  
14 all of said display objects selected for positioning within said interior space can be seen through  
15 said partially reflective surfaces;

16 optionally forming an opening within said stationary base member and said cover for  
17 extension therethrough of said electrical connection means; and

18 using said electrical connection means to connect each said light source to said power  
19 source so that when each said light source is activated, each of said selected display objects  
20 viewed through one of said partially reflective surfaces positioned adjacent to said interior space  
21 is enhanced by said multiple reflected images creating an infinity mirror effect.

22 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said stationary base members and complementing  
23 ones of said covers are selected from a group consisting of box-like stationary base members and

1 substantially planar covers; substantially planar platform-like stationary base members and box-  
2 like covers; top opening covers; covers having two adjoined panels and a complementary  
3 stationary base member having top, bottom, and back surfaces; covers having three adjoined  
4 panels and a complementary stationary base member having top, bottom, and back surfaces; and  
5 stationary base members and a complementary cover each having an angled three dimensional  
6 configuration complementing the other to form an interior space.

7 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the providing of a means of closure  
8 between said stationary base member and said wherein said means of closure is selected from a  
9 group consisting of hinges, easily releasable closure means, promptly releasable closure means,  
10 snap-fit types of closure means, magnets, and locking closure means.

11 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising display object support means and wherein  
12 said display object support means are selected from a group consisting of display supports  
13 having a transparent upper surface, display supports having a translucent upper surface, movable  
14 display support members, movable display support members secured in place by at least one  
15 suction cup, movable display support members secured in place by adhesive means, and movable  
16 display support members secured in place by bonding agent means.

17 16. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of providing a plurality of  
18 vertically extending spaced-apart peg holes and providing a plurality of elevated support  
19 members each having at least one protrusion thereon configured for engaging one of said peg  
20 holes.

21 17. The method of claim 16 wherein said step of providing a plurality of vertically  
22 extending spaced-apart peg holes is achieved through steps in a group consisting of the step of  
23 providing of a plurality of mounting strips having peg holes, connecting selected ones of said

1 mounting strips in a vertical orientation to said stationary base member so that each of said  
2 mounting strips so mounted is positioned within said interior space, connecting selected ones of  
3 said mounting strips in a vertical orientation to said cover so that each of said mounting strips so  
4 mounted is positioned within said interior space, forming a plurality of peg holes which are  
5 spaced apart from one another directly within said stationary base member so that a device  
6 mating with any of said peg holes becomes positioned within said interior space, and forming a  
7 plurality of peg holes which are uniformly spaced apart from one another directly within said  
8 stationary base member so that a device mating with any of said peg holes becomes positioned  
9 within said interior space.

10 18. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of providing of a plurality of  
11 anchoring devices, providing a quantity of filamentous material, attaching a selected number of  
12 said anchoring devices to said stationary base member, securing at least a portion of said  
13 filamentous material to at least one of said display objects to create suspendable display objects,  
14 and rapidly connecting said filamentous material to at least one of said anchoring devices so as to  
15 freely hang each said suspendable display object within said interior space.

16 19. The method of claim 12 wherein said light source is selected from a group consisting  
17 of individual incandescent bulbs, incandescent miniature lights housed within a flexible plastic  
18 tubing, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent lights, and neon lighting.

19 20. The method of claim 12 wherein said stationary base member has opposed grooves  
20 therein adjacent to said interior space and said cover has opposed perimeter edges, and wherein  
21 said opposed perimeter edges of said cover are slidably positioned within said grooves for  
22 movement between said closed position and said opened positions.